

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1764

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT

SUBJ: ULTIMA HORA EDITORIAL FUELS PDC BITTERNESS

REF: SANTIAGO 1692

1. SUMMARY. AS PDC PONDERES WISDOM OF SEEKING IMPEACH ENTIRE CABINET, UNUSUALLY SCABROUS ATTACK ON PDC LEADERS IN PS- CONTROLLED TABLOID ULTIMA HORA HAS CREATED FUROR IN PDC RANKS. PARTY PRES FUENTEALBA, CAUTIONING PARTY MEMBERS NOT TO BE GOADED INTO " GOLPISMO" POSTURE, PREDICTED ALLENDE GOVT WOULD " CRUMBLE" UNDER ITS OWN IMMORALITY; LESS RESTRAINED, EDUARDO FREI CALLED FOR MOBILIZATION OF ALL ANTI- GOVT ELEMENTS, " WHATEVER THE RISK S." END SUMMARY.

2. EVEN CHILE' S PERMISSIVE JOURNALISTIC AMBIENCE WAS TAKEN ABACK BY ULTIMA HOR A' S ATTACK APR 17 ON PDC. TITLED " TRAIADORES Y CAROJOS," EDITORIAL RAKED PDC FOR JOINING LATEST ANTI- UP OFFENSIVE WHOSE CENTERPIECE IS TO BE IMPEACHMENT OF ENTIRE CABINET. (NOTE: PDC COUNCIL MEETS EVENING APR 24 TO DECIDE IF PARTY WILL IN FACT BACK THAT PN- INITIATED PROPOSAL.) PDC LEADERS FREI, CARMONA, PARETO, AND THEIR LACKEY FUENTEALBA, WHO HAD SOLD THEIR SOULS TO UNITED STATES WERE, IN EDITORIAL' S WORDS, " WHORES, SIMPLY WHORES, WITH APOLOGIES TO THE LADIES OF THE NIGHT." OTHER EPITHETS RESIST TRANSLATION.

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3. AS OTHER PDC SPOKESMEN NOTED THAT FONMIN ALMEYDA, MINDEF JOSE TOHA AND HOUSING MINISTER LUIS MATTE ARE PART-OWNERS OF THE OFFENDING TABLOID, PDC PRES RENAN FUENTEALBA NEXT DAY ISSUED FORMAL STATEMENT. PDC, HE SAID, WOULD NOT LET ITSELF BE LURED INTO " CONFRONTATION, CIVIL WAR OR GOLPISMO." ALLENDE GOVT, IF THINGS CONTINUE AS THEY ARE, " WILL CRUMBLE BY ITSELF UNDER WEIGHT OF ITS IMMORALITY, TOTALITARIANISM AND INCAPACITY...."

4. EX- PRESIDENT FREI, SILENT DURING INITIAL UPROAR OVER ITT HEARINGS AND STERN ARTICLE (REF), SENT UPEN LETTER TO FUENTEALBA APR 19, EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY. HE ALLUDED TO " SYSTEMATIC" CAMPAIGN TO " DESTROY" HIM WHICH INCLUDED " INTERNATIONAL ORCHESTRATION," AS IN THE ITT CASE. RATHER THAN VILIFICATION, HIS CONDUCT IN TURNING GOVT OVER TO ALLENDE IN 1970 DESERVED UP' S GRATITUDE. ALLENDE GOVT, HE SAID, IS TWO- FACED. IT CALLS FOR HARMONY AND ORDER IN THE MORNING AND LAVISHES INSULTS IN THE AFTERNOON. MORAL ATMOSPHERE WAS " AT TIMES UNBREATHABLE." FREI THEN UNUMERATED ELEMENTS OF GOVT' S CURRENT OFFENSIVE: EDUCATION REFORM DRIVE; RENEWED USE OF DECREES OF INSISTENCE; THREAT OF CONCERTED TAKEOVERS OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS UNDER 80 BASIC HECTARES; AND ACTIVITIES RESTRICTING EXPANSION OF NON- UP TV STATIONS. FREW CALLED UPON PDC AND CHILEANS IN EVERY FIELD OF ENDEAVOR TO " COME TOGETHER AND ORGANIZE THEMSELVES SPONTANEOUSLY ... WHAT-EVER THE RISKS, THREATS AND CAMPAIGNS OF DEFAMATION."

5. MEANWHILE, ULTIMA HORA EDITOR FRANCISCO GALDAMES (RECENTLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF FONMIN' S CULTURAL DEPARTMENT) WAS DETAINED AND BOOKED ON LIBEL CHARGES. QUESTIONED PUBLICLY, FONMIN ALMEYDA MAINTAINED HE HAD NOT HAD A CHANCE TO READ EDITORIAL, BUT IN LIGHT ITT REVELATIONS, HEATED REACTION WAS UNDERSTANDABLE. ON APRIL 23, TOHA CONDEMNED EDITORIAL' S LANGUAGE WHILE ASSERTING THAT HE AND OTHER TWO MINISTERS HAD SEVERED " ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE NEWSPAPER" UPON ASSUMING MINISTERIAL POSTS.

6. COMMENT. AT DINNER PARTY LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT, FUENTEALBA SPENT HALF AN HOUR DESCRIBING TO ME ULTIMA HORA ARTICLE, HIS OWN REPLY, AND MORAL CORRUPTION OF HIGH GOVT FIGURES WHO WOULD ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH POLITICAL DIATRIDE OF SUCH DEGENERACY. FUENTEALBA MADE GREAT POINT

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OF HIS DETERMINATION NOT TO LET UP LEADERS GOAD HIM INTO ABANDONING HIS " SERENITY" AND CALM RESOLUTION. ON STERN (WAS POST) CHARGES, FUENTEALBA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PDC DID RECEIVE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM GERMANS AND SOME OTHER EUROPEAN AND LATIM CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC BRETHREN. HE ASSERTED THAT CHILEAN CRISTIAN DEMOCRACY DID NOT COMPROMISE ITS POSITIONS OR INDEPENDENCE IN ANY WAY IN

DOING SO. HE INDICATED THAT UP MIGHT REALLY BE TRYING TO
GOAD CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS INTO ADVENTURISM, BUT CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATS " WOULD NOT BE SO PROVOKED." AS IN HIS PUBLIC
STATEMENT, HE REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT UP GOVT WILL
" CRUMBLE" UNDER THE WEIGHT OF ITS MORAL BANKRUPTCY.
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